

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

# PAWSitive Reflections

News and Information for Families, Staff, & Friends



VOLUME 65 ISSUE 1  
SPRING 2017



## Senior Walk and Graduation- a Farewell to All



Valedictorian Courtney Hocog

Courtney's Valediction, with Guest Speaker John Maucere '82 and Administration

Salutatorian Jamze Dean

RIVERSIDE—WHERE LANGUAGE AND LEARNING THRIVE!

## **Mission Statement:**

*Students at the California School for the Deaf are engaged in a positive environment where ASL and English are valued, cultures are embraced, learning is relevant, and self-worth is uplifted. In collaboration with families and school communities, Southern California students prepare for college and careers with academic rigor, innovative technology, and extracurricular opportunities.*

## **News from Nancy**

What a whirlwind first year at CSD, Riverside! This past school year has been filled with many exciting developments, of which I am proud to have been a part.

We saw the new Physical Education and Athletics complex unfold. The complex includes facilities for wrestling, basketball and volleyball, cheerleading, as well as two swimming pools and four dressing rooms surrounding the pools. One of the pools is a competitive 25-meter pool, while the other is a wheelchair-accessible pool for Athletic training and Adapted PE.

We obtained WASC and CEASD dual-accreditation respectively, which validated our hard work and gave us guidelines toward continued school improvement.

We continue following through and expanding our strategic planning goals to increase student achievement and enrollment, and to serve as a resource.

We maintained our championship status at the high school Academic Bowl of the West, and came home with numerous top awards for competitions in various fields from ASL and Literacy to Career Technology Education.

We received the honor of a campus visit from State Superintendent Tom Torlakson, who dropped by for a personalized tour with students and staff.

We opened the second building for Career Technology Education, and renovated the school cafeteria.

Most importantly, thank you for the support and dedication that came from the CSD Riverside families, staff, students, and community. I look forward to another great year!

With Cub pride,

**Nancy Hlibok Amann, Ph.D.  
Superintendent**



*Nancy in her Ph.D. robe,  
at her investiture ceremony*



*The Superintendent and the CSD-R Cub*

**THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER TO ALL, REGARDLESS OF AGE, ANCESTRY, COLOR, DISABILITY (MENTAL AND PHYSICAL), EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE, GENDER, GENDER EXPRESSION, GENDER IDENTITY, GENETIC INFORMATION, MARITAL STATUS, MEDICAL CONDITION, MILITARY OR VETERAN STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, RACE, RELIGIOUS CREED, SEX (INCLUDES PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, BREASTFEEDING AND RELATED MEDICAL CONDITIONS), AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION.**

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## **In this Issue:**

*News from Nancy, p.2*

*Investiture, p.3*

*New Staff, p.4*

*Accreditation, p.4*

*Remarkable Teen, p.5*

*Visit to Capitol, p.6*

*CAL-ED Award, p.7*

*Therapy Dog, p.7*

*Literacy & BOTB, p.8-9*

*Academic Champion, p.10*

*County Film Award, p.11*

*State FEAST Award, p.11*

*STEM Career Day, p.12-13*

*Theatre & Pageant, p.14*

*Alumni & Stardom, p. 15*

*Latinx Awareness, p. 16*

*Family Fun Weekend, p. 17*

*Employee Awards, p. 18*

*Graduating Seniors, p. 19*

*In Memory, p. 20*

*Buy a Brick, p. 20*

*High School Prom, p. 20*

*Calendar of Events, p.20*

# Investiture Ceremony for Nancy, the New Superintendent

The California School for the Deaf, Riverside — the Home of Pioneers, Legends, and Heroes — was proud to welcome its seventh Superintendent in its rich 63 year old history: Dr. Nancy Hlibok Amann.

To usher in this new era of leadership, CSDR had a special historic event, an Investiture ceremony. This was an exciting day in the history of the school for the students, staff, families, and community in attendance. We were recognizing our new superintendent, Nancy Hlibok Amann, Ph.D., who was selected after two years of extensive search and interviews.

A processional kicked off the ceremony with presenters in their doctorate graduation robes. Dr. Amann gave her Investiture address while framing her vision for CSDR and student achievement. Other speakers included administrators from the California Department of Education— The Honorable Tom Torlakson, Mr. Scott Kerby, and Dr. William Ellerbee. The special guest

*Superintendent Nancy Hlibok Amann, Ph.D.*

presenter was Roberta J. Cordano, Jd., the first deaf woman President of Gallaudet University. GU President Cordano exhorted the audience, "Nancy can't do this alone. She must have the community with her, then she will succeed." The audience visibly agreed with Cordano and showed their support for Dr. Amann.

Students from each age group gave beautiful, touching performances showcasing their school spirit in honor of the new superintendent.

The "surprise" Master of Ceremonies was John Maucere, an international performer and an alumnus of the Class of '82, who poignantly described his experiences at CSDR, and how they formed the root of his ASL poetry and performance skills.

CSD enjoyed this "Rite of Passage" and a good first year with its new superintendent!



## Full School Accreditations



## Welcome New Staff 2016-17



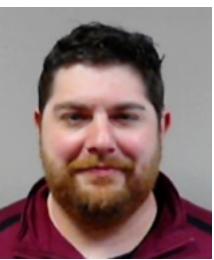
Heather Lewis,  
Office Technician,  
Elementary



Kari Richards,  
Office Technician,  
Middle School



Arianne Hendrix '94,  
Teacher,  
Middle School



Brian Tinsley,  
School Counselor,  
Middle School



Kevin Hendrix,  
Teacher,  
High School  
Alt. Curriculum Ed.



Jennifer Burnett,  
Teacher,  
High School



Darren Hause,  
Teacher,  
High School



Tyler Bayarsky '03,  
Office Technician,  
Athletics

CSD-R has received full accreditation this school year from both organizations: the Western States of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Conference of Educators and Administrators for Schools/programs of the Deaf (CEASD). The schoolwide action plans have been approved and are in place for the next four years before the new accreditation self-study cycle begins. Kudos to all staff, students, and stakeholders for working together!



Middle left:  
CEASD accreditation team with student leadership

Top: Strategic Planning staff members and parent representatives working on action plans

Left: Hands waving from all certificated staff of teachers, specialists, and school counselors, and administration

## HS Student Recognized Among 25 Most Remarkable Teens

Among the 25 Most Remarkable Teens this year was Jared Herman, a sophomore at the California School for the Deaf, Riverside. Youth Council held a recognition ceremony on April 25, 2017 at City Hall's Council Chambers to present these 25 teens, including Jared, to the mayor and council members of the City of Riverside. The Art Pick Council Chamber was a full house packed with the Riverside City Council staff, the distinguished students, their families, and their school administrators and teachers, many of whose eyes brimmed with tears as they were inspired by the students' stories. CSDR High School Principal Ms. Scarlett Valencia wrote the recommendation for Jared Herman in the program book:

A sophomore at California School for the Deaf, Riverside, Jared Herman is a can't-miss star at both his school and in the local community. Jared's work ethic and warm personality make for a winning combination. He excels in academics, taking Honors courses, and is involved with his school's varsity cheerleading team, academic bowl team, Junior National Association of the Deaf chapter, and serves as the student body's Director of Athletics. Jared is an ambassador for deaf and hard of hearing youth across America and strives to be a good leader for all.



Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey (right) and his staff with Jared

times. Jared's proudest accomplishment is his involvement in a nationwide reading competition hosted by Gallaudet University called Battle of the Books, which brings together deaf schools across the country to compete against each other. Jared is the only person to have been on the team for three straight years- in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades- and to earn a spot to compete in the national competition every year he was involved. Jared has a passion for acting and performing. He has auditioned for movies, and was in a lead role in his school play this year, "The Butler Did It." Jared is flying higher than an eagle, thanks to the legacy he is expanding through his involvement in his community and school.

Herman, who had served as the ASBG Director of Athletics this year, has recently been announced today as the newly elected President for the next school year. Principal Ms. Valencia added, "We are supremely proud of Jared for being such an awesome teen and we can't wait to see more good things from him during the rest of his high school years! CONGRATULATIONS, Jared!"



Jared with his family and CSD administrators and staff



## Fourth Graders Travel to Visit Old Sacramento and the Capitol

Contributed by Ms. Megan Rivadeneyra and Ms. Nicolette Obidos

Fourth grade students at the California School for the Deaf in Riverside took an epic adventure to the state capitol, Sacramento, on Tuesday. Students, families and the community had rallied together to fundraise \$4,000 to cover the cost of this field trip, so the students could experience a first-hand study of California's journey to statehood, and its pioneer and gold fever days. Students and staff all met early on Tuesday morning for the bus ride to the airport. Upon arrival in Sacramento, students toured Old Sacramento and had a glimpse of what life looked during the Gold Rush days. Guided by Scott Kerby, Director of State Special Schools and Services Division, students and staff walked to the Capitol building for a very informative tour. After lunch, students had the honor of meeting Riverside Assembly Member Jose Medina who let them in for a special tour on the Assembly floor. The California Department of Education was also kind enough to welcome our group into their building. While there, the students had the privilege of meeting our State Superintendent, Tom Torlakson, and Dr. Ellerbee of the Superintendent's Cabinet. The



Visiting the 1800's steam railroads from the Gold Rush days in Old Sacramento

students were so excited that they hugged the dignitaries they had met.

"It was the first time some of the students experienced an airplane ride. The students were in awe of what they had explored and who they met [in Sacramento]!" added Elementary Principal Janelle Green who attended as a chaperone. "We are very proud of the hard work these students did in order to make this trip happen... What an adventure!" commented fourth grade team teachers, Nicolette Obidos and Megan Rivadeneyra. The Deaf and Hearing teacher duo have worked collaboratively together for years to inspire their students with tangible and enriching educational experiences, from field trips to campus gardening.

After a long, exciting trip, all the students showed up at school the next day, ready for another day of learning, but thankfully were allowed to stay dressed in their pajamas for a more relaxing day to reminiscence on their past adventure.



Fourth Graders in front of the State Capitol in Sacramento



On the Assembly floor with Assemblymember Jose Medina

## Elementary Principal- CAL-ED Administrator of the Year



Students and staff in the Elementary department, and school administrators, surprised Ms. Janelle Green by assembling outside to hug and congratulate her, and students gave humorous performances about their principal



## Keep Calm and Pet the Therapy Dog “Scout”



Once a week in counseling services, a certified and licensed Therapy Dog comes in to provide calm, caring, gentle comfort and love. Scout is a friendly chocolate lab who enjoys being petted and hugged by people of all ages. Sometimes Scout also visits classrooms. After receiving approval from school and state administration, Ms. Jesser introduced Scout to the students at a special assembly, to their interest and delight. Welcome to the CSD family, Scout!



## Expanding with a New Elementary Library of its Own



For the first time since 1953, Elementary students no longer need to make the trek to the main school library situated in the high school buildings—they now have their own library! Interim Superintendent, Mr. Scott Kerby, made this possible during the year prior to Dr. Amann's term. The walls were constructed for new doorways and windows at the checkout station, the closet was converted to a hands-on stimulation room, a platform was added for a new stage, one wall was painted with a mural by a generous Disney artist, and technology wiring and viewing screens were installed for e-books though i-Pads that were distributed to classrooms this year. At the grand opening, students helped Dr. Amann

*Left: Superintendent Amann and students cut the red ribbon  
Right: Librarian Mary Kopcho and Elementary Principal Janelle Green*

cut the red ribbon, and then they enjoyed cookies and entertainment in their new library. Middle School library construction will be next!



## National Battle of the Books—Middle School



Our middle school team did well at the annual Battle of the Books competition hosted by Gallaudet University. Gallaudet hosts the top eight qualifying teams at the "Buff Level" (highest level of readers) from schools or programs for the Deaf across the country. The players answered, in written English and ASL a challenging series of questions on the books they read in front of the audience. CSD-R won Best Sportsmanship for the Bu division, and Enrico Miller (son of CSD alumnae Erlinda Gomez) was selected as an All-Star! Thank you CSD Alumni Association for financial support!

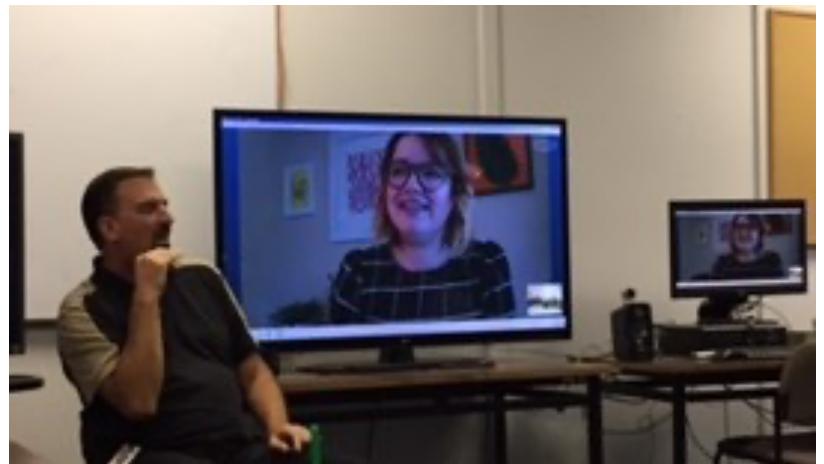
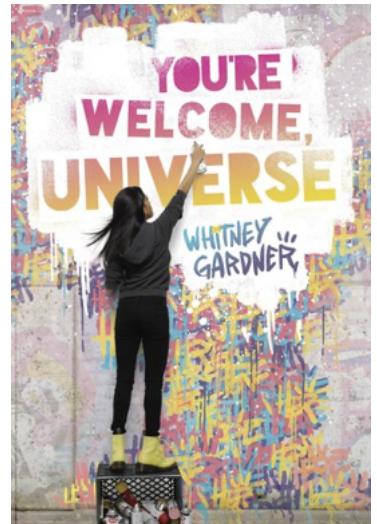


*Left: The team at the iconic statue of T.H. Gallaudet and Alice Cogswell at Gallaudet University  
Top: CSD players Daniel Soudakoff and Enrico Miller at their assigned table for the Battle of the Books competition. Miller was selected as an All Star player.*

## Book Club with Graffiti Art at the Secondary Library

For this year's Book Club, middle and high school students read *You're Welcome, Universe*. Books are selected based on the popular best sellers for teens, and if possible, incorporate characters or experiences of deaf people. Students meet during lunch to discuss their readings and interpretations. Ms. Mary Kopcho, the school librarian, sponsored the book club with discussions and enriching experiences. The story involved a character who covered up a slur about her best friend at a school for the Deaf with a beautiful, yet illegal graffiti mural. In response to the book, CSDR students (with permission from the librarian and school administration) recreated the scene by covering library walls with inspirational graffiti art.

Students and staff schoolwide were invited to admire the students' work the following week. Then the students engaged in an exciting Skype conversation with the author, Whitney Gardner, through the computer using an ASL interpreter sitting next to the screen to facilitate communication between the students and the author. Ms. Kopcho remarked, "I am grateful for this book club event. The students have enjoyed the entire experience so much, and look forward to more book club sessions next year!"



*Students make graffiti art in the Secondary Library, inspired by the book *You're Welcome, Universe*.*

*ASL Book Club students converse with the author Whitney Gardner through Skype and the ASL interpreter. Gardner signs "I Love You" on the video screen.*

# West Academic Bowl 4-Peat Champions & Top Eight in Nation



Team in the middle of their match – February 2017 – At left: Nathaniel Humpal, Hailey Burton, Dakota Ronco, and Spencer Willey.

CSD-R won the West Regional Academic Bowl held February 19, 2017 in Riverside. Teams from 20 deaf and mainstream schools from the western states participated in the two-day competition on the Riverside campus. The team advanced to the National Academic Bowl hosted by Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., April 1 to 4, 2017, and placed in the top eight, a good finish out of 80 teams in the nation. CSD has been a regional champion for the last four consecutive years (earning a championship in the Southwest Regional in 2015, and in West Regional all the other years).

The competition consists of a question and answer game of general knowledge and quick recall. Questions are drawn from the following categories: history and government, language and literature, science and technology, geography, mathematics, the arts, deaf studies, current events, and pop culture, leisure, and sports.



Coach Mr. Hause, Hailey Burton, Nathaniel Humpal, Dakota Ronco, Spencer Willey, and coach Ms. Romano. They sign "#1" and "Champion!"

CSD team is comprised of players Hailey Burton, Nathaniel Humpal, Dakota Ronco, and Spencer Willey, and coaches Ms. Alyssa Romano and Mr. Darren Hause. CSD dominated the West Regional tournament, scoring an average of 50 points over their opponents in nine matches throughout the weekend. In the championship game Sunday night, CSD won with an aggressively solid 40-point lead over Wyoming School for the Deaf. Junior Hailey Burton and sophomore Spencer Willey were honored among the five identified all-star players. Gallaudet President Roberta J. Cordano, the first deaf woman president of the University, greeted the Academic Bowl participants and their families at both tournaments.

Upon their return home, the High School Academic Bowl team volunteered their time weekly during lunch to train the middle school students. The veteran players coached the annual Middle School Class Bowl, in which the eighth grade team won. What a great journey it has been for the team, who wore both hats as players and coaches!



Champion team with President Roberta J. Cordano, J.D., of Gallaudet University, and Pamela C. Snedigar, Coordinator of Gallaudet University West Regional Academic Bowl

Save the Date! 2018 West Regional Bowl: March 8-11  
at University High School in Irvine, CA!



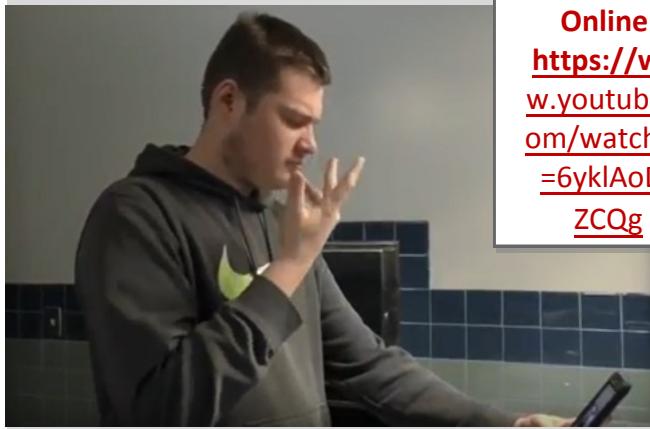
Middle School Class Bowl: Seventh grade team (left) and eighth grade team (right) with high school academic bowl players as their coaches

## Winners of Best Culture Film



Film winners Scarlet Watters and Gabriella Rodriguez with TV/Film teacher Peter Trzesniewski (in blue) and CSD staff

CSDR High School students won the Riverside County Directing Change award for the best film on Suicide Prevention in the category of Through the Lens of Culture. In "60 Seconds of Hope," a Deaf student contemplates suicide, but is saved by a text message from a friend with the lifeline number. The students had worked together in screenwriting, directing, filming, and editing this past semester. The award was presented in May at the 4th Annual Inland Empire Screening and Award Ceremony at the Fox Theater in Riverside. The students who made this film were Jacob Caldwell-Monroe, Mariposa MacAulay, Gabriella Rodriguez and Scarlet Watters. Rodriguez and Watters attended, only knowing that their film was being nominated. Upon receiving the announcement, the girls were surprised and moved that their film was selected out of many, including those by university students.



Clip of the victim expressing in ASL on his smartphone his contemplation of suicide, but is saved by a text message .

## County & State Culinary Winners

Students in the FEAST program competed at the county level, and several students, including Easton Huerta, won awards, as well as earning their way to the state-level competition. At state, Katherine Martinez won the 3rd place trophy in Wedding Cake décor and Jamze Dean won the 3rd place trophy in bread and display. Everyone else received recognition plaques for their work and attire. They do look sharp in these nice school-red blazers!



Find the Film  
Online:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yklAoDZCQg>

# STEM Career Day with Deaf Professionals in the STEM Field



CSD girls meet and listen to Deaf women in the STEM field, such as filmmaker Jade Bryant (left) and NASA Accountant Raymonda Yeh (right)

California School for the Deaf hosted the second annual STEM Career Day all day on March 14, 2017. This was a rare opportunity for great numbers of Deaf and Hard of Hearing students to meet, at one time, many Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults working in the STEM field. This was made possible by the National Science Foundation grant awarded to the Rochester Institute of Technology / DeafTEC, which allowed the School for the Deaf to sponsor this special STEM Career event and make it available to all Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in Southern California in order to increase their career opportunities. Sponsored by the California School for the Deaf, Riverside, the event was filled with hands-on activities and Deaf professionals who hoped to inspire deaf and hard-of-hearing students to pursue careers in STEM.

In addition to CSD-R students, over one hundred Deaf and Hard of Hearing students at mainstreaming programs in Southern California came on Tuesday.

"Last year was a huge success and the presentations this year were even more amazing!" said Dr. Natasha Kordus, Supervisor of "Thrive", the California Deaf Education Resource Center.

Presenters representing the various fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) for the day were Accountant Raymonda Yeh and Engineer Johanna Lucht from NASA, Software Engineer and school alumnus William Albright, Andrew Rubin in Digital Media, Filmmaker Jade Bryan, Mike Burns from Google, App Developer Chris Campbell from National Technical Institute of the Deaf, Multimedia Producer Jon Savage, Engineer Gibbens and Welder Yankievich from SpaceX, Craig Salonen in Information Technology and Coding, and well-known Computer Animator Braam Jordaan. Deaf reporter Melissa Yingst and cameramen from DPAN.TV, the Sign Language Channel, were also



Left: Hands-on time with Robotics; Right: STEM Day presenter Steven Forney demonstrates taking photos with his drone much to the delight of the students

## Continued from p. 8: STEM Career Day

present to cover the event with authentic demonstrations of the reporting process. Exhibitions also included STEM hands-on activities from the School's Extended Learning Program.

These STEM resources are intended to help inspire Deaf and Hard of Hearing students to see themselves as individuals with great potential. Students, teachers, and parents from all over Southern California can benefit from direct exposure and communication access to role models in the STEM fields.

During lunch break from the STEM presentations and exhibitions, Riverside's chapter of the Junior National Association of the Deaf, a high school leadership organization, also welcomed all the visiting students from other Deaf and Hard of Hearing programs for lunch and "Togetherness" empowerment activities. No matter how much the students can hear, which schools they attend, or which educational approach they are raised with, Deaf students across Southern California are united in their shared culture as friends who can relate to each other.

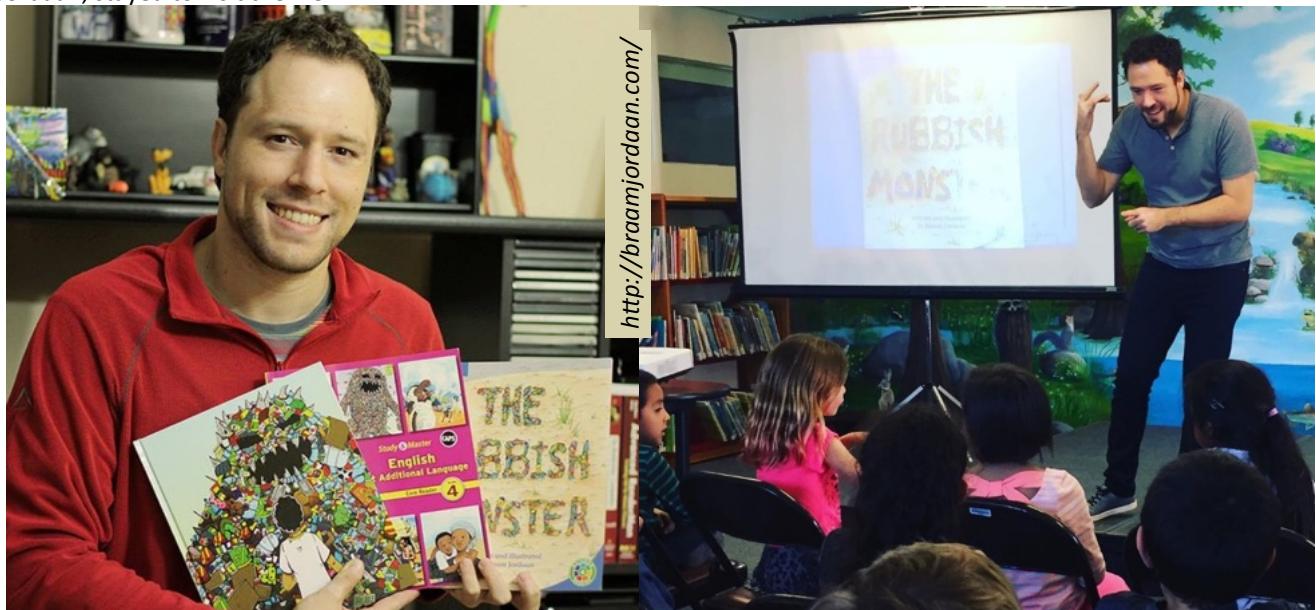
The next day, international film festival winning animator and author from South Africa, Braam Jordaan, stayed to visit the Ele-

mentary students for story-signing of his book that he wrote and illustrated, *The Rubbish Monster*. Braam also demonstrated his film and animation



Togetherness empowerment activities with the Jr.NAD chapter at CSD for all Deaf students who participated in STEM Career Day from local school programs

progress and development with opportunities for Q & A. The students, who received exposure to Deaf Art and role models in their ASL/Deaf Studies class, were overwhelmingly delighted with this special treat of interacting with *THE* Braam Jordaan!



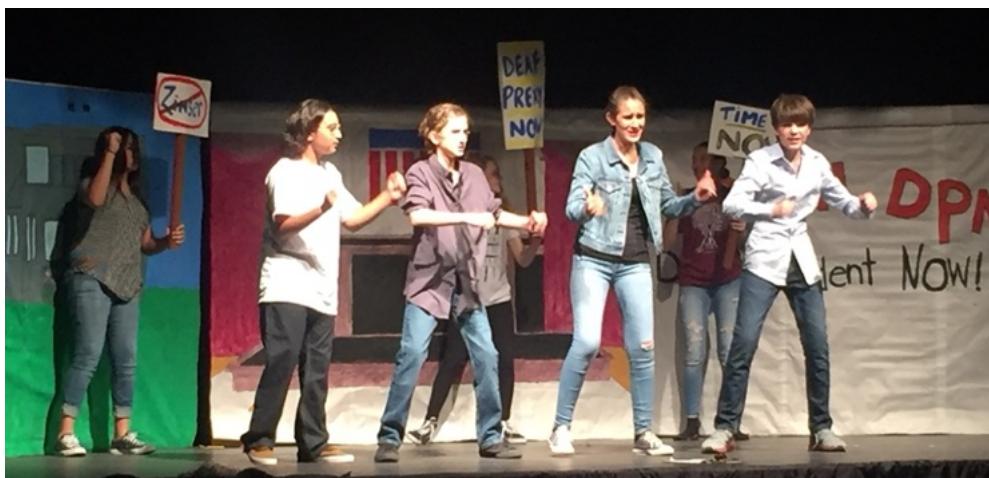
International acclaimed Deaf animation artist and writer Braam Jordaan from South Africa gives storytelling to Elementary students

# Entertaining Drama Productions and Impressive Pageants

Students of all ages made history with their impressive performances this year! Of special note is the play by Middle School, "A Journey Through the Deaf Timeline", in honor of this 200th year anniversary of the founding of Deaf Education in America, and its own sign language. The MS cast and crew did the play three times by high demand, including a trip to perform at CSU Fresno for the special anniversary event, with Gallaudet President Dr. Roberta Cordano in attendance as the Guest of Honor!



Left: Key characters in the MS play "A Journey Through the Deaf Timeline", highlighting milestones starting with T.H. Gallaudet's discovery of the deaf girl Alice Cogswell (Right), Anne Sullivan teaching DeafBlind Helen Keller to sign and talk, and Alexander G. Bell's oppression over Deaf people



"Apps" themed Variety Show by students in ACE, with call for audience volunteers

Drums, chants, and demands by the famous student leaders for a Deaf President at Gallaudet University, performed by Middle School students: Enrico Miller (as Jerry Covell), Clark Barrett (as Tim Rarus), Zola MacAulay (as Bridgetta Bourne-Firl), and Zane Hencker (as Greg Hlibok)



ES/MS Youth Ambassador Pageant— Every single contestant wowed the audience with talent, poise, and intelligence. Congratulations to the winners who have gold stars above their heads—Octavio Chavez-Lopez (MS) and Joshua Cyperf (ES)!



Jared Herman as Lead Actor in "The Butler Did It" with Jamie Dean



Other HS Student Cast in "The Butler Did It"

## Alumnus John Maucere, International Performer & SuperDeafy



John Maucere '82, a famous alumnus, visited CSD three times this school year. In October, John surprised the school as the emcee for Superintendent Nancy's investiture ceremony. In November, he returned with Congressman Mark Takano to celebrate Deaf Uber drivers as the official spokesperson for Uber. In May, John met with students onstage and described his memories as a student at Riverside, and shared how his ASL and acting skills thrived here, especially at the student housing after hours with the dorm counselors who inspired him. John thanked the students who acted in his movie "No Ordinary Hero: The SuperDeafy Movie", particularly the lead star, eighth grader Zane Hencker. Students excitedly waved the now famous help signal, "SuperDeafy!"



## Final Season Preview & Party with "Switched at Birth" Cast

CSD HS students were invited to attend a special event in September which they were told was a "Focus Group" interview session about the television show "Switched At Birth". Students were proud to know that Riverside alumni such as Ryan Lane ("Travis") and Sean Berdy ("Emme") have been key actors in the show. Upon arrival at the focus group, much to their surprise and delight, students were treated to a preview of the final season. Moreover, the left wall slid away to reveal some of the cast members of the show greeting them in person! Academy Award winning Deaf actress Marlee Matlin ("Melody") ushered the students into a party room where they hugged, took photos, and talked with the actors Ka'e Leclerc ("Daphne"), Vanessa Marano ("Bay"), Constance Marie ("Regina"), and Lucas Grabeel ("Toby"). Students were fired giving their comments about the show. Thanks to Freeform Productions for helping CSD students connect with the cast and for the great dinner celebration!



# Native American and Latinx Heritage Celebration



*A pledge with drums by hearing students from Sherman Indian High School, and special guest LaVar Kellywood, a Deaf Native American*



*Students from Sherman Indian HS & CSD mingle in ice-breaker activities.*

California School for the Deaf celebrated Latinx and Native American cultures for Heritage Week in March, with a special event open to the public Thursday evening. Latinx and Native American ethnic food was sold by various student organizations. Then came dance, music, fashion, games, art, and craft. HS Senior Kyra Ayala, a talented Día de los Muertos artist, painted faces.

Every day of the week was filled with cultural activities and events. Students enjoyed ice-breaker activities with guest students from Sherman Indian High School who provided an inspirational performance for the entire school. Guest speakers and ASL storytellers included LaVar Kellywood, a proud Deaf Native American from San Francisco and Roberto Cabrera, a DeafBlind Dominican, Roberto "Robs" Sandoval, Melissa Yingst and Sorocco Garcia of Council de Manos, a Deaf Latin organization. Thursday was the day of feasting Latinx and Native American cuisine prepared by CSD students studying Culinary Arts. The final event Thursday night was open for the public as the culmination of an exciting, enriching week of cultural study.



*Elementary students in Native American clothing to celebrate Heritage week*

## Latino Family Night Workshop with CDERC– A Success!

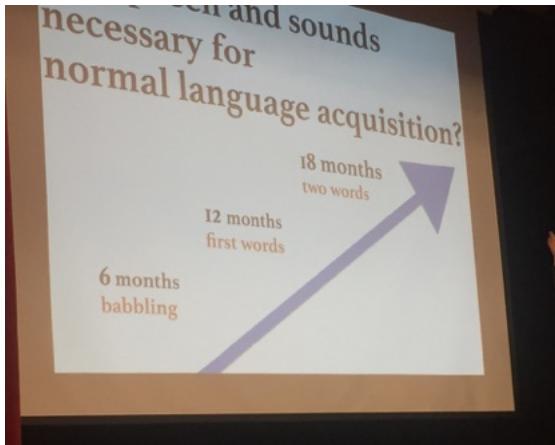


*Assemblymember Jose Medina of Riverside, workshop presenter Irma Sanchez, and workshop coordinator Terri Vincent.*

Irma Sanchez, a proud CSD parent and Parent Links staffer, gave an inspiring presentation in written and spoken Spanish, which was translated into ASL and English through audio-receptors. So many beautiful languages happening at once! For information on future workshops, contact: [cderc@csrcd.ca.gov](mailto:cderc@csrcd.ca.gov)



# Family Fun Weekend Outreach for All Families with Deaf Kids



For VL2 resources, visit <http://vl2.gallaudet.edu/>



Top: Dr. Melissa Herzig of the Gallaudet University VL2 Institute



Stand Up comedian and performer Rosa Lee Timms (standing at left), with audience participants onstage for impromptu ASL poetry

The California Deaf Education Resource Center at CSD hosted a weekend of workshops and fun activities open to all Southern California families with deaf children. The group, Signing America, helped to coordinate the weekend activities. One of the presenters, Dr. Melissa Herzig, of Gallaudet University Visual Language Visual Learning institute, explicitly demonstrated the research on how language learning can be accomplished for deaf children with the same timely milestones as hearing children. The weekend was a HUGE success because of the many volunteers from CSD and Signing America who gave of their time, energy and love! The fun weekend of bonding cumulated with a rare privilege of watching the amazing Rosa Lee Show with a full house, filled with awe and laughter! The interactive audience onstage included a KODA, an ASL student, a Deaf Ed. teacher/ASL teacher, and CSD parents, who all did a great job!



Signing America volunteers who cheerfully gave their time and energy to work with families

For CDERC resources, visit: <http://thrive.cde.ca.gov/>

# Congratulations Employees!

## Ambassador Award:



### Kelly Gunderson

- a high school counselor who is a positive representative for CSDR, who has promoted the school and its activities with optimism and charm.

## Enthusiastic Award:



### Ginger Martinez

- an Elementary teacher's aide who shows a strong belief in our school and displays intense passion for CSD's core values.

## Above & Beyond Award:



### Julie Reese

- an office technician in Student Life who consistently and routinely goes above and beyond the scope of their responsibilities to meet the needs of CSD and its students.

## Supervisor Award:



### Cheryl Cerdá-Uribé

- a supervisor of the Personnel Department who is visual and helpful, and serves as a great and knowledgeable leader.

## Community Service Award:



### Suzanne McDonald

- a teacher's aide in Elementary who demonstrates exceptional commitment to CSD and the community through service and volunteerism.

## Volunteer Award:



### Cindi Safford

- a volunteer who helped in all areas of the CTE FEAST culinary program, and at school and extra-curricular events.

## Innovative Award:



### Tammie Bervel

- an Elementary teacher who thinks outside of the box, introduces new ideas with innovative perspectives.

## Donna Schiller Parent Award:



### Suzanne Blair Perkins

- a parent who volunteered daily at the main library, and helped with the Parent Staff Working Together organization.

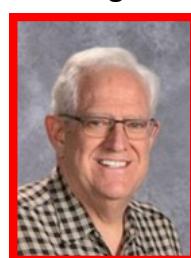
## Yearbook Dedication:



### Lisa Chute

- a Middle School teacher who wore many hats, and was like a mother hen to her students.

## Honoring Retirees



Mitch Kurs  
CTE Specialist



Wendy Keedy  
Speech Specialist



Julie Muhammad  
Transportation Coordinator

*We appreciate all that each of you do daily!*

[info@csdr-cde.ca.gov](mailto:info@csdr-cde.ca.gov)

<http://csdr-cde.ca.gov>

## Courtney Kiyoshi Hocog, Valedictorian 2017



Courtney began CSDR in her sophomore year as a long-distance student residing in the student housing cottages. Courtney served as ASBG President, Director of Communications, and Class President. For community events, she helped on the "Red Crew". She served as a crew member for community events, and as a presenter at Rotary clubs on school programs and updates.

Courtney is helpful, kind and well-liked by her peers; she has worked with them as a Peer Mediator for two years in collaboration with the counseling office. She was voted as Homecoming Princess.

This scholar-athlete is also a valuable Varsity player in all sports: Cross Country as Most Valuable Runner, Track with a Coach's Award, a recognized 2nd Team Arrowhead League All-Star in both Volleyball and Girls Basketball, where she was also selected as CSD's Most Outstanding Player.

Courtney's interests lie in saving the lives of others. She has been a Red Cross Blood Drive Activist for the annual ASBG Blood Drive, and is attending Gallaudet University this fall semester to major in Pre-Med with a career goal to work as an obstetrician/gynecologist.

## Jamze Bo Dean, Salutatorian 2017



Jamze Dean is glad to have returned to CSDR from Florida for the last three years of high school for social opportunities and education. This intelligent, kind and humorous student likes cheering people up and shows that he cares about the school, as reported by another peer mediator who knew him. Dean also likes music and often volunteers at CSD events. This year, Jamze officiated as vice president for the Senior Class.

For his education, Jamze appreciated his Honors courses including Chemistry and Calculus, as well as the courses he explored in the Career Technology Education department. The Robotics course was a particularly huge fascination for him. In Culinary Arts, he won 1st place at the district level and 3rd place at state level for his baked bread display, and he learned some tricks in the trades from Intermediate Construction Technology and Automotive/Welding Technology courses.

Jamze Dean will attend Gallaudet University on a scholarship this fall. His ambitions include studying Political Science and someday earning a Ph.D. The future Dr. Dean enjoys participating in debate, and believes all people have the right to (be able to) debate.

## Congratulation to the Graduating Class of 2017

Victoria Alcocer (Alhambra), Monserrat Arroyo (Riverside), Kyra Ayala (San Marcos), Kellie Barton (Ontario), Jarita Bustamante (Riverside), Mireya Carranco (Perris), Jasmine Claudio (Riverside), Dominique Cortez (Riverside), Jamze Dean (Riverside), Cheyenne Estrada (Oxnard), Brandon Figueroa (Moreno Valley), Melissa Frias (Anaheim), Amy Gamboa (Riverside), Jose Garcia (Riverside), Alexandra Gonzalez (Temecula), Courtney Hocog (Fontana), Jacob Huezo (Riverside), Luis Juarez (Santa Ana), Kathleen Lopez (Riverside), Mariana Lopez (Moreno Valley), Austi Marquez-Avalos (Bloomington), Katherine Marquez (Nuevo), Amanda Mendel (Ontario), Emilio Oropesa (San Bernardino), Henry Padilla (Moreno Valley), Jennifer Roques (Moreno Valley), Jeremy Umana (Sylmar), Mary Rose Viana (Victorville), and the late DeSean Welch (Victorville). Welch's unoccupied seat was covered with his graduation cap and robe, and his brother walked on behalf of DeSean, who passed away early in the school year.



*Aerial Photo of the Class of 2017 standing together in the shape of '17 and the late DeSean Welch as a basketball star last spring 2016*



In Memory of Those We Lost During the School Year...

- ◆ Mr. Alban Branton '81, High School Teacher
- ◆ DeSean Welch '17, Senior
- ◆ Mr. Sam Crawford, Alternate Curriculum Education Teacher

*Top right: the Welch family at graduation on behalf of DeSean*

*Right: el dia de los muertos wall display by HS students to honor Mr. Alban Branton and DeSean Welch*

*Bottom: Panoramic photo of High school students dressed in glamour for Prom*



# BUY A BRICK!



The donated bricks will mount on the outside wall of Social Hall, around the wall letters "CSDR." Your brick will be a permanent reminder that you or someone you loved was here. Each brick will have a personalized message and no two will be the same. The brick is 4x8 and costs only \$100.00. All donations will support programs for our students.

## YOU CAN MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

California School for the Deaf, Riverside/  
Attn. Brittney Kinder

3044 Horace St, Riverside CA 92506

If you have any questions,  
please call Brittney Kinder

(951) 248-7700 x6511,

(951) 248-7700 x6578 Español



## Upcoming Major Events During School Year: 2017-2018

View latest school event details at [www.Facebook.com/CSDRiverside](http://www.Facebook.com/CSDRiverside) and sports information on [CSDR Athletics Facebook page](http://CSDR Athletics Facebook page)

8/21	School Registration /Picture Day	12/16	Battle of California- Wrestling/Basketball
8/22	First Day of School	2/27	STEM Career Day*
9/12	Back to School Night	3/7	Deaf Jam Performance*
9/23	Riverside Deaf Awareness Week Kick-off	3/16-3/18	Family Fun Weekend*
10/12	Long Night Riverside	4/20-4/21	Hoy Baseball Tournament*
11/1	Deaf Teen America*	5/10-5/12	HS Drama Production*
11/8	Heidi vs. Hedy Show*	5/29-6/1	CTE Multi-Media Gallery
11/14	Harvest Festival*	6/7	HS Graduation
12/14	ACE Variety Show*	6/8	Last Day of School

\* Events Subject to Change